



PEDIATRIC PULMONOLOGY, ALLERGY AND SLEEP MEDICINE
 Children's and Women's Physicians of Westchester, LLP
 Munger Pavilion, Room 108
 Valhalla, New York 10595
 Office: (914) 493-7585
 Facsimile: (914) 594-4336
 E-mail: pedpulm@nysmc.edu



Allen J. Dozer, MD, Chief
 Diana B. Lowenthal, MD
 Nikhil Amin, MD
 Joseph Boyer, MD
 Suzette Gjonaj, MD
 Y. Cathy Kim, MD
 Sankaran Krishnan, MD
 Lance Parton, MD
 Jayasri Indaram, MD
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 John Welter, MD

Agnes Banquet, MD
 Sharon Newport, MD
 M. Myrtha Gregoire, MD
 Ashish Shah, MD
 Madeline Heydendael, RN
 Richard Griffin, MS, RPFJ
 Ingrid Gherson, Research Coord

May 11, 2006

Honorable John Murtagh
 Yonkers City Council
 City Hall Suite 407
 40 South Broadway
 Yonkers, NY 10701

Re: Gasoline Powered Leaf Blower Regulation

Dear Councilman Murtagh:

I write to strongly support legislation to limit the use of Gasoline Powered Leaf Blowers.

I am the Chief of the Division of Pediatric Pulmonology, Allergy and Sleep Medicine at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center and Professor of Pediatrics at New York Medical College. Our group cares for thousands of children with asthma, both in the clinic at St John's Riverside Hospital-Parkcare Pavilion in Yonkers as well as here on our main campus.

Asthma in Children has increased to epidemic proportions over the last thirty years, especially in young children. Asthma was rare in the 1950's and 1960's, but now between thirty and fifty percent of young children now have recurrent coughing and wheezing in the first few years of life, a truly astounding statistic. There may be many reasons for this extraordinary increase, but literally dozens of research studies have documented the relationship between air quality, pollution, and wheezing in infants.

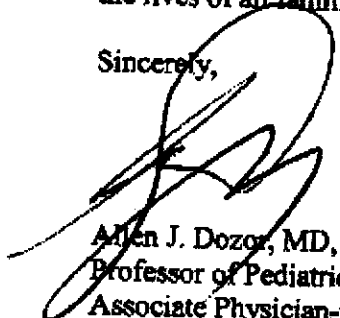
Recurrent wheezing in infants is unequivocally triggered by exposure to pollution. Young children are closer to the ground, and breathing in many more gallons of air relative to their body size. Their lungs seem particularly sensitive and affected by any changes in air quality.

When the air quality is poor, my phone rings off the hook.

Asthma and related conditions are, by far, the most common reason for children to miss school, require urgent visits to doctors and emergency rooms, and to be hospitalized. This is not only a huge medical burden. The costs in terms of missed work by parents and missed school by children are even larger.

Anything that could be done to improve the air quality in Yonkers will have enormous impact on the lives of all families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Dozor', written over the printed name.

Allen J. Dozor, MD, FCCP, FAAP
Professor of Pediatrics and Chief, Pediatric Pulmonology
Associate Physician-in-Chief
Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center
New York Medical College